

and others from the community celebrated Mrs. Eichert's extraordinary service and wished her well in retirement during an open house on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the exemplary service and unwavering commitment to helping seniors and others in need that Dana Eichert has demonstrated during her nearly 28-year tenure with Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Incorporated.

HONORING THE CAREER OF VERNA BAILEY

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Verna Bailey, an exemplary public school principal who worked with distinction for decades in the district I am honored to represent. Since 1974, Verna has dedicated herself to the students, parents, and faculty of the Beaverton School District. Originally from Mississippi, Verna moved to the Pacific Northwest 40 years ago and promptly fell in love with Oregon and its residents. She earned a Master's Degree in Education at Lewis and Clark College, and she worked in several Beaverton schools during her exceptional career.

Verna Bailey is the daughter of a civil rights advocate, and the first African-American woman to attend and graduate from Ole' Miss. Her story is one of courage and bravery. Although many of us supported the civil rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s, Verna personally confronted hatred and prejudice on a daily basis, and she fought to earn what all of our students rightly deserve—a quality education. Verna Bailey stepped up to be one of the first so others behind her could follow her path. She showed the integrity and determination that solidified her place in our complicated American history.

Verna's past should and will be honored, but it is her 39-year history with the Beaverton School District that is her legacy. As an educator and administrator, Verna Bailey earned considerable praise and recognition. She contributed to the development of thousands of students, including my own children, who saw and respected her as a leader. It is my honor to congratulate Verna Bailey on her retirement and to thank her for a remarkable career and for her decades of dedication to our youth and our community. Her leadership, enthusiasm, and compassion will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I support passage of H.R. 258, the Stolen Valor Act of 2013 and H.R. 1073, the Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013. I was not present during votes in the House of Representatives on May 20, 2013 at the time these two bills came to the floor for a vote but would have voted in favor of their passage.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 45, REPEAL OF PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, the GOP needs to reorder its priorities. The American people want us to focus on jobs and strengthening our economy, instead of relitigating the past. Today is the 37th time the majority has taken up repealing patient protections for the American people. This is a very bad idea.

Since January 2011, the House has been in session and held votes on only 281 days. Forty-three of those days have been spent on repealing the Affordable Care Act alone. That's 15 percent of the American people's time spent solely on failed attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

For the party that's seeking to cut their way to prosperity, consider this: based on the cost per day to run Congress, the Congressional Research Service calculated that the time spent attempting to repeal the health law has come with a \$52.4 million price tag for taxpayers. This money could restore the estimated \$41 million cut under sequestration to Meals on Wheels nutrition programs across the country. Or it could pay for nearly 7,000 children to participate in the Head Start program for a year.

Now, consider the benefits the American people have enjoyed since the Affordable Care Act became law: children no longer face discrimination due to pre-existing conditions; students and young adults are gaining coverage through their parents' plans; Medicare is stronger, and seniors are paying less for prescription drugs and getting better treatment at lower cost; Americans no longer face lifetime limits; families are receiving rebates from insurance companies; and women have access to a wide range of free preventive services.

Since the law was enacted in March 2010, over 800,000 jobs have been created in the health care industry. So when the GOP says the Affordable Care Act is "killing jobs," it's flat out wrong.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act would leave millions of Americans without vital patient protections and has cost the American people precious time and money. We should instead vote for legislation to create jobs, expand our economy, and strengthen the middle class.

PENNSYLVANIA CLASSICAL GUITARIST, JAY STEVESKEY, PERFORMS THE WORKS OF A SPANISH COMPOSER AND MEXICAN COMPOSERS AT TWO RECENT VENUES

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, with a resemblance to Sir Paul McCartney, the persona

of a John Denver, and the soul of guitarist John Williams, local classical guitarist Jay Steveskey is a study in contradictions—engaging yet nonchalant, ready-to-do-battle yet laid back, fanciful yet down-to-earth, personable yet aloof, worldly yet parochial, busy yet relaxed. At a recent concert at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Scranton in which he shared the stage with the well-heeled flutist Ed Wargo, Jay Steveskey performed a special guitar solo of Francisco Tarrega's "Recuerdos de la Alhambra." Translated as "Memories of Alhambra," a famous palace in Granada, Spain, the romantic-era piece is by far Tarrega's most famous work and is considered a study in the art of the tremolo.

Steveskey's rendering of this work was both touching and gripping with tremolos as heart-felt and bittersweet as a lovesick teenager. The rise and fall of the melodic line was produced fine and evenly to the point of exquisite perfection. His technique was masterful in the tradition of Segovia, who considered this piece to be one of his personal favorites of the solo guitar repertoire. Both Tarrega and Segovia must have been smiling down upon Steveskey with this elegant and finely impressionistic performance. Two weeks later, Steveskey was superbly at it once again, engagingly performing the music this time of Mexican composers at a special Cinco de Mayo concert at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock. A study of sorts in Mexican folk music, the program began with a Mexican piece by Agustin Lara about the Spanish city of Granada and ended with Five Sketches of Mexico by Julio Cesar Oliva. In between was the music of Manuel Ponce and Ernesto Garcia de Leon. Steveskey's musicality had the ring of authenticity and was quite dolce at various times throughout the program. The "Seis Preludios Cortos" written by Manuel Ponce at the end of his life for the children of a fellow composer was brooding and urgent as if the composer had a longing for Death. The "Sonatina Meridional" also by Manuel Ponce was the last piece written for his old friend, Andres Segovia, to whom he dedicated much of his career. The contemporary sketches of Mexico by Oliva were part of a set of twenty such impressionistic sketches with Steveskey performing two sets of five, for Cinco de Mayo. In keeping with the Cinco de Mayo theme of the program, Steveskey also performed the modernistic "Cinco Bosquejos" by Ernesto Garcia de Leon. Other brief pieces by Ponce such as "Estrellita," "Scherzino Mexicano," and "La Pajarera" rounded out the charmed performance.

Steveskey's nuanced sound was so honest and pure and full of lyricism that it could bring a grown hombre to tears. His overall performance was quite strong and very straightforward yet strewn with subtle touches here and there. His encore after the all-Mexican program was a well-known Mexican tune called "Maria Elena." As the words to the poetic song "Granada" go: "Granada, land of my dreams, mine becomes a gypsy song when I sing to you," Jay Steveskey has managed to capture the wayward and sensual soul of the Spanish-speaking people.